

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

β1 [0004] Flowers and other plants have long been grown and displayed in pots, commonly referred to as "flower pots". Flower pots are generally constructed of natural, earthen material, such as clay, which is in turn glazed and fired to produce a ~~harder~~ hardened, non-flexible ceramic structure. Flower pots have also been constructed of plastic materials which are colored or painted to have the appearance of an earthen material.

β2 [0007] To this end, a need exists ~~exist~~ for a flower pot that can be shipped and stored in a substantially flattened condition and readily erected into a container that can hold a growing medium and plant material and that has a ceramic appearance. It is to such an invention that the present invention is directed.

β3
Cont. [0033] The inner surface of the rigid segments 14 are fixed to the outer surface 30 of the flexible liner 22 via a bonding material. The rigid segments 14 are shaped and arranged so as to permit the rigid segments 14 to move between the expanded condition (FIG. 1) and the collapsed condition (FIG. 2 and 3) in conjunction with the flexible liner 22. The rigid segments 14 of substantially planar or curved configurations are aligned on the flexible liner 22 such that longitudinal edge of one rigid segment 14 substantially parallels the longitudinal edge of the adjacent rigid segment 14. To this end, the flexible liner 22 serves as a hinge between the rigid segments 14 thereby allowing the collapsible container

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10 to be moved between the expanded condition and the collapsed condition. As best shown in FIG. 3, in the collapsed condition, a first portion 17 of the rigid segments 14 is arranged so that the rigid segments 14 of the first portion 17 are in a coplanar relationship to one another. Furthermore, in the collapsed condition, a second portion 18 of the rigid segments 14 is arranged so that the rigid segments 14 of the second portion 18 are in a substantially coplanar relationship to one another while being in a substantially parallel relationship to the first portion 17 of the rigid segments 14. Thus, the sidewall 16 is in a substantially flattened condition when the collapsible container 10 is in the collapsed condition.

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[0036] The connecting members 15b are illustrated as being ~~an~~ elastic living hinges wherein each living hinge has one portion connected to one of the rigid segments 14a and another portion connected to an adjacent rigid segment 14a. The connecting members 15b connect the inner surface of one rigid segment 14a together with the inner surface of the adjacent rigid segment 14a. The elasticity of the living hinges biases the rigid segments 14a in the expanded condition, yet permits the rigid segments 14a to be moved to the collapsed condition.

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Cont.

[0043] FIG. 15 shows a sectional view of a pot assembly 110. The pot assembly 110 includes a base member 112 having a bottom surface 114, a top surface 116, and a groove 118 formed along an outer perimeter thereof. The pot assembly 110 further includes a plurality of rigid segments 14d having one end removably disposed in the groove

118 of the base member 112 arranged circumferentially about the base member 112 to form a sidewall 120. The sidewall 120 cooperates with the base member 112 to define an object receiving space 122. Each rigid segment 14d has a lower edge 124, an upper edge 126, a first side edge 128, and a second side edge 130. The first side edge 128 of each rigid segment 14d is detachably linked to the second side edge 130 of an adjacent rigid segment 14d with the rigid segments 14d disposed in the groove 118 of the base member 112. The first side edge 128 of each rigid segment 14d has a tongue 132 and the second side edge 130 of each rigid segment 14d has a groove 134 for receiving the tongue 132 of the adjacent rigid segment 14d.